

Life Cycle Research Paper

Purpose

Write and deliver a research report about the life cycle of a butterfly (or another topic determined by the teacher). Students will use a variety of references materials (online resources, encyclopedias, books, pictures, charts, diagrams, etc.) to gather ideas and work through the research process (defining the topic, gathering information, determining credibility, and reporting findings).

Materials

For the teacher: reference materials, including pre-determined websites, encyclopedias, books, etc.; rubric to assess the final product; chalk; chalkboard
For the students: a variety of reference materials, access to the Internet, teacher-created outline

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Find some child-friendly websites that the students may use for their research.
2. Gather other resources, such as books, magazines, and encyclopedias.
3. Create a rubric to assess the research paper.
4. Create an outline, where the students will record the information learned from their research. The outline should include four Roman numerals (where the students will list the 4 stages of the butterfly—egg, larva, pupa, butterfly) with four to five blanks underneath each heading (where students will gather their information about each stage).

B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Discuss that all living things have a certain way that they are developed.
2. Tell the class that they are going to be researching the life cycle of a butterfly.
3. Using the research materials that the teacher has gathered (science textbook, predetermined websites, encyclopedias, etc.), have each student research to find out the names of the four stages of a butterfly's life.
4. Model how to list those four stages onto the outline created by the teacher. Discuss that the blanks underneath those stages will be filled in with other information that the students learn through their research.

C. Writing and Publishing the Research Paper

1. Allow students time to research the topic and complete their outlines.
2. Model how to turn the information on the outline into a research paper.

Technology Literacy Standards

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
1	X		X		X	X	X
2	X		X			X	
3	X					X	
4		X				X	
5						X	
6		X				X	
7						X	
8						X	
9						X	
10						X	
11						X	
12						X	
13				X			
14						X	
15				X			
16							

☒ = This Technology Literacy Standard is addressed in this lesson.

☐ = This Technology Literacy Standard is not addressed in this lesson.

3. Allow students time to write their research papers.
4. Guide the students through the teacher's preferred editing/proofreading process.
5. Allow the students time to publish their writing using word processing software or by writing out by hand, whichever the teacher prefers.

D. Close the Activity

1. If the teacher wishes to extend the activity, students could present their research papers to their classmates and/or create drawings of the life cycle of the butterfly.
2. The students will turn in their research papers.
3. The teacher will assess the papers, using the predetermined rubric.

Classroom Assessment _____

Using the teacher-developed rubric, assessment will occur as students submit their word processed document.